

REMARKS

New Title:

The title has been amended to more accurately describe the present invention.

Changes to the Claims:

Claims 1-20 are canceled, and new claims 21-40 have been added. The new claims are fully supported by the specification of the parent application. No new matter has been added.

Patentability of the New Claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, a comparison is provided below between limitations in the current claims and those discussed in the reasons for allowance for two applications to which the current application claims priority: Application Serial No. 09/167,847 (the '847 application) and Application Serial No. 10/244,244 (the '244 application).

Independent claim 21 and its dependent claims 22-26 recite "an identification identifying a first class for the gaming chip, the identification stored in the memory, the identification differentiating the first class gaming chip from at least one other class of gaming chips while said first class gaming chip and said at least one other class of gaming chips are intermingled within said bet." The reasons for allowance for Application Serial No. 09/167,847 (hereafter the '847 reasons for allowance, attached hereto as Exhibit A) indicate that "[t]he closest prior art of record neither renders obvious nor anticipates a method and device for differentiating two separate values in intermingled first and second classes of casino chips" Claim 21 is directed to the gaming chip itself rather than a "method" or "system" for differentiating different classes of chips. The preservation of the recited differentiation of different classes of chips makes claim 21 and its dependent claims patentable over the prior art for the same reasons stated in the '847 reasons for allowance in connection with the patentability of the claims of the '847 application.

Independent claim 27 and its dependent claims 28-35 recite the limitations "at least one gaming chip of a first class having a first transponder containing at least value information; at least one gaming chip of a second class having a second transponder containing at least value and class information." The limitations of claim 27 track the limitations quoted on pages 2-3 of the '847 reasons for allowance (Exhibit A) which recite

“primary signals containing value information” and “the secondary signals containing value and identity information.” Therefore, claim 27 and its dependent claims are patentable over the prior art for the same reasons provided in the ‘847 reasons for allowance for patentability of the claims of the ‘847 application.

Independent claim 36 and its dependent claims 37-40 define the limitations “a transponder; a memory located in the transponder; promotion information encoded into the memory in the transponder, the transponder transmitting said promotion information in response to a received signal.” The reasons for allowance for Application Serial No. 10/244,244 (hereafter the ‘244 reasons for allowance, attached hereto as Exhibit B), in explaining the allowance of the claims in the ‘244 application, recites that “the method comprises providing a special casino chip that has a promotion encoded onto its transponder . . . , reading the promotion from the transponder of the special casino chip in the computer system when the special casino chip is placed on the table during play of the live casino card game, determining whether the scheduled time event exists in response to reading the promotion, and enabling the player to participate in the promotion when the scheduled time event is determined to exist.” Thus, the patentable features relating only to the casino chip set forth in the ‘244 reasons for allowance are recited in claim 36. Claim 36 and its dependent claims are patentable over the prior art for the reasons articulated in the ‘244 reasons for allowance in connection with the patentability of the claims of the ‘244 application.

New Abstract:

An amended abstract is presented herein to better reflect the subject matter of this application. No new matter has been added.

Conclusion:

Based on the foregoing, all pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests that the instant case be passed to issue. Should you have



any questions regarding the above, please feel free to give the below-listed attorney a call. If additional fees are required, please debit our Deposit Account No. 04-1414.

Respectfully submitted,

DORR, CARSON, SLOAN, BIRNEY & KRAMER, P.C.

Date: 1-22-2004

By: Leslie S. Garmaise
Leslie S. Garmaise
Reg. No. 47,587
3010 East 6th Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80206
(303) 333-3010

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DETAILED ACTION

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Dorr on 10-09-00.

2. The application has been amended as follows: Claim 1, line 4 insert "located" after the word "chips" and before the word "on". Also, regarding claim 6, line 4 after the word "chip" insert "located on a single wagering area" and regarding claim 6, line 6 insert "located on a single wagering area" after the phrase "second class casino chip".

Allowable Subject Matter

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record neither renders obvious nor anticipates a method and device for *differtiating two separate values in intermingled first and second classes of casino chips*, comprising the steps of:

receiving primary signals from a first transponder embedded in at least one casino class chip *in the intermingled casino chip located on a single wager area*, the primary signals containing value information and

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receiving secondary signals from a second transponder embedded in at least one second class casino chip *in the intermingled casino chips on the single wagering area*, the secondary signals containing value and identity information.

The closest prior art of record (French et al. '548) is only capable of reading of the value of each chip in a stack of chip, not the reading of the value of each chip intermingled.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to S Clayton whose telephone number is (703) 305-0124. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 9:30am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's primary can be reached at (703) 308-2217.

S Clayton
SC
10-09-00

VALENCIA MARTIN-WALLACE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

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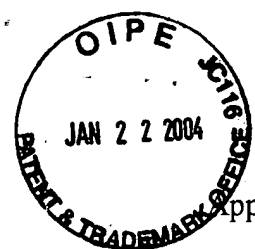
REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior arts of record does not disclose a method of promoting play of a live casino card game during a scheduled time event in which the live casino card game has a computer system for reading the monetary values from transponders in casino chips placed as wagers on a table of the live card game, the method comprises providing a special casino chip that has a promotion encoded into its transponder to the player, reading the promotion from the transponder of the special casino chip in the computer system when the special casino chip is placed on the table during play of the live casino card game, determining whether the scheduled time event exists in response to reading the promotion, and enabling the player to participate in the promotion when the scheduled time event is determined to exist.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-7915. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00AM to 5:00PM ET. The central official fax number is (703) 872-9306.



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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding
should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

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Date: October 24, 2003

KIM NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER